(e) The ISRO's Telemedicine programme has been supported by the major speciality hospitals in the country for providing tele-consultation and treatment to the remote district hospitals. Some of the speciality hospitals and the medical college hospitals which provide tele-consultation are either private or trust hospitals apart from the leading national institutions and Government hospitals thereby establishing a good private public partnership.

(f) Not applicable.

Sickle Cell Research Centre in Nagpur

2502. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish Sickle Cell Research Centre in Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Indian Council of Medical Research under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has conducted a multicentric study on primitive tribal population with Nagpur and Pune as centres from Maharashtra State. Under this project a simple intervention method to reduce the sickle cell crisis in the affected individuals, were developed which included folic acid and Fersolate tablets to be given to cases of nutritional anemia and Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) with iron deficiency. Sickle cell anemia patients have been advised to take electrol powder and plenty of fluid during the evasoocclusive crisis. An improvement in Hb level has been observed in those cases who are taking the tablets regularly. Hepatitis B, H. influenzae and pneumococus vaccines were given to sickle cell anemia cases in Nagpur. Genetic counselling has been offered to the affected population. State Government has been requested to takeover intervention module developed under this programme. Apart from this, a number of other districts in Maharashtra have been studied by Council's Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai for screening of sickle cell anemia.

Parallel market of spurious drugs

†2503. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a parallel system is in place for manufacturing and marketing of spurious drugs in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.